

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077069  
ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBLAKEMORE:JCM  
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEEN, JR.  
S/S-O:SVALERGA

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O 242202Z MAR 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: TONGSUN PARK

R:F: SEOUL 2385

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR PARK, KEUN WOO CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT MARCH 24 TO MAKE TWO POINTS.
2. FIRST, BASED ON A REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED OF THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADORS SNEIDER AND KIM (REFTEL), PARK WANTED TO EXPLORE "INFORMALLY" WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO INTERCEDE WITH THE CONGRESS TO PERSUADE THEM THAT THE ROKG HAS GONE AS FAR AS IT POSSIBLY CAN, POLITICALLY, IN TRYING TO ACCOMMODATE DEMANDS FOR TESTIMONY FROM KIM, DONG JO. NOTING THAT THE SEARCH FOR A COMPROMISE GOES ON IN SEOUL, HE WONDERED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION COULD PRESS THE CONGRESS TO

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ACCEPT LESS THAN A FULL LOAF. WE REPLIED THAT WE CONTINUE TO VIEW THIS AS A MATTER BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE ROKG WHICH IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN EXCEPT INsofar AS WE ALREADY HAVE WITH REGARD TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION. PARK WAS DISPOINTED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, BY THIS RESPONSE. (PARK UNDERSTANDS

THAT DESPITE THEIR FORMAL RESPONSE THE DEPARTMENT, LIKE AMBASSADOR SNEIDER, STANDS WILLING TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF FACILITATOR AS APPROPRIATE TO HELP THE TWO SIDES REACH AN ACCOMMODATION).

3. HE THEN REFERRED TO A MARCH 23 WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT TONGSUN PARK APPEARED BEFORE A GRAND JURY MARCH 22. PARK TOOK EXCEPTION TO THIS, CITING ARTICLE 11 OF THE MPAA ON THE NEED FOR GRAND JURY APPEARANCES. COMPARISON OF THE TEXTS SHOWED THAT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS "SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARY" WHILE THE KOREAN IS "WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY".

4. WE HAVE GIVEN PARK THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION FOR THE GRAND JURY APPEARANCE, WHICH YOU MAY WISH TO PASS TO MOFA/MOJ.

-- IT WAS ANTICIPATED AT THE TIME THE MPAA WAS NEGOTIATED THAT BY THE TIME TONGSUN PARK ARRIVED IN THE US THE GRAND JURY WOULD HAVE MADE ITS INDICTMENT DECISIONS BASED ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF HIS SEOUL TESTIMONY, AND THUS APPEARANCES WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY.

-- HOWEVER, HE CAME TO THE US SOONER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED, AND WHEN THE GRAND JURY WAS APPROACHING A VOTE ON A FURTHER INDICTMENT IT ASKED TO SEE PARK TO

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ASSESS THE DEMEANOR OF THIS KEY WITNESS. SINCE HE IS HERE, AND IS NOT BUSY TESTIFYING AT THE HANNA TRIAL, THERE IS NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD NOT APPEAR. ACCORDING TO JUSTICE, NEITHER PARK NOR HUNDLEY OBJECTED TO THE APPEARANCE. ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL APPEARANCES MAY BE NECESSARY.

5. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE KOREAN EMBASSY THAT IT ASK ITS LEGAL COUNSEL TO DISCUSS THIS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTLY WITH JUSTICE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INVESTIGATIONS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CAT-B  
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**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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